(c) M. R. Ry. Edakkunni Uzhutra Wariar Avl.
M. R. Ry. Erinjeri Lonappan Ouseph Avl.

(d) M. R. Ry. Ayyappa Menon Avl. and M. R. Ry. Chakkoru Avl. were absent for all and M. R. Ry. Uzhutra Wariar Avl. for 13 out of 16 meetings held in 1101. The last-named member, Mr. Wariar, informed the Panchayat on two occasions that he had urgent business, and on a few other occasions that he was unwell. The first two members did not give any reason for their absence.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—When there were 4 Christians already nominated, why was a fifth Christian nominated? Are we to understand that there were no people in the other communities?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There were not very many competent people.

President.—Instead of nominating a Christian, why not nominate an Ezhuva, for we have 4 Christians, an Ambalavasi and one Nayar.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There were not suitable candidates in the other communities.

President.—Did you look to all the communities, and did you find that there was no Ezhuva competent to be nominated?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is the nomination to be made on the basis of castes and communities?

President.—It is only on general principles.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—We can have only 5 nominated members, and we have more than 5 communities in every part of the State.

President.—So that, when there is nomination, why do you increase the number of the already represented community? Why not nominate one from one of the other communities which is not represented?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is this nomination to be based on communities or on the merits of the persons?

President.—If there are suitable candidates, will not the Government be advised in nominating them?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I think the criterion should not be the communities but the real merits of the candidates.

President.—In this particular case, there were not suitable persons in the other communities.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I doubt very much.

71. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a request from the members of the

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backward community (Ezhuvas) for representation by nominating one of them to the Edakkunni Panchayat, and whether in the face of that a fifth Christian was nominated;

(b) whether the Superintendent asked repeatedly for a list of persons qualified by rules for membership to the Panchayat, and whether the nominated member was one who was not in both the lists submitted to him;

(c) whether the names of several members of the backward classes were not included in the lists;

(d) the particular reasons that prompted the Superintendent to brush aside the claims of the backward class in preference to those of the fifth Christian member (nominated by him);

(e) whether there was a representation to remove the Panchayat Office from the house of the President to the commodious Village Office in Kuttanallur centrally situated so that the present rent, etc., paid could be saved to the Panchayat with advantage;

(f) the reasons, if any, for not respecting the representation;

(g) whether the Superintendent forwarded to the Diwan the petition or petitions he received from some members regarding the same, and if so, the date on which he received the petition and the date on which he forwarded them to the Diwan and the result?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Only one list was received. The nominated member's name was not in the list.

(c) There was only one Ezhuva candidate's name in the list.

(d) The Superintendent did not brush aside the claims of any of the classes. The services of a proper Ezhuva candidate were not available at the time of nomination.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Panchayat by a majority was not in favour of the representation.

(g) Yes.

Date of receipt .... 27—10—1101
Date of despatch .... 18—11—1101

The Government did not think it necessary to revise the order of the Superintendent.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There was a report from the Ezhuva community for the nomination. Further, the new nominated Christian member was not included in the list supplied by the Revenue Officers. Still he was nominated. The Superintendent called for a list of those who are qualified

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for nomination. This Christian member was not included in that list. Still he was nominated.

President.—There was an Ezhuva petition pointing out that the nomination should be from amongst them. They had made mention of suitable Ezhuva candidates. Is it so?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—An Ezhuva member was also included in the list.

President.—If there was a request of that kind, why did we not nominate an Ezhuva?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It is true that there was an Ezhuva member competent to be nominated. But at the time of nomination, his services were not available, as he joined the college.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The one nominated is not the one who was included in the list.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The Government is not bound to nominate one from among those whose names have been included in the list prepared by the Revenue authorities.

President.—Did you satisfy yourself that, amongst the other communities, there was none suitable to be nominated as a member?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes, Sir.

President.—That settles the question.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—In these matters, do not the Government consider that members from unrepresented communities should be nominated?

President.—My view is that it should be done.

The scheme for the development of agriculture.

72. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state what the outcome is of the question sent in and the answers received from the various practical agriculturists in early 1916 by Diwan Mr. Bhore?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—A comprehensive scheme of work for the guidance of the Agricultural Department was drawn up, and the general principles on which it should develop its activities were defined. For detailed information regarding the scheme the Member is referred to the Diwan's Proceedings R. O. C. No. 435/90, dated 17th February 1917, published on page 465, Part I of the Gazette, dated 13th Kumbham 1092.

Siltclearance of poramboke tanks.

73. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state on what principles are *poramboke* tanks selected for silt clearance, etc., by the Superintendent of Village Panchayats?

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